

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A composite material, comprising:
a cementitious matrix; and
cellulose fibers incorporated into the cementitious matrix, wherein the cellulose fibers comprise a blend of bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers and wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise between about 5 and 25 weight percent of the total cellulose fibers incorporated into the matrix, wherein the modulus of rupture (MOR) of the composite material is substantially equal to or greater than the MOR of an equivalent composite material reinforced with unbleached, premium grade cellulose fibers.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers have an average Kappa number of less than or equal to about 10.
5. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers from species selected from the group consisting of Douglas fir, hemlock, spruce, southern yellow pines, kenaf and redwood.
6. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers of *P. Radiata* pine.
7. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the unbleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers from species selected from the group consisting of Douglass fir, hemlock, white fir, spruce, southern pine, kenaf and redwood.

8. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers comprise about 0.5%-20% by weight of the composite material.

9. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers comprise cellulose fibers having an average fiber length of between about 1 mm to 3.5 mm.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the toughness energy of the composite material is substantially equal to or greater than the toughness energy of an equivalent composite material reinforced with unbleached, premium grade cellulose fibers.

12.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) A composite material, comprising:
a cementitious matrix;
a first portion of cellulose fibers having a Kappa number of less than or equal to about 10; and
a second portion of standard grade cellulose fibers having a Kappa number of greater than about 10.

26. (Withdrawn) The composite material of claim 25, wherein the first portion of cellulose fibers comprises premium grade cellulose fibers.

27. (Withdrawn) The composite material of claim 25, wherein the first portion of the cellulose fibers comprises less than about 50% by weight of the total amount of the two portions of cellulose fibers combined.

28. (New) A composite material, comprising:

 a cementitious matrix; and

 cellulose fibers incorporated into the cementitious matrix, wherein the cellulose fibers comprise a blend of bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers and wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise between about 5 and 25 weight percent of the total cellulose fibers incorporated into the matrix, wherein the modulus of rupture of the composite material is greater than about 10 MPa.